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The tempo of the air war over all areas of North Vietnam increased significantly during the last three months as important military and economic targets were taken under concentrated and systematic attack. Starting on 20 April the program was extended to include attacks against vital targets in the heavily defended and densely populated areas around Hanoi and Haiphong. Thirty-nine targets of military or economic significance located within or close to Hanoi and Haiphong were attacked, including 21 SAM sites, eight targets in the Haiphong area and nine targets in the Hanoi area. In addition the Thai Nguyen iron and steel complex was subjected to repeated attack.

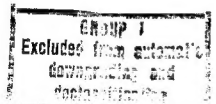
Some of the more significant targets included the central power generating facilities in both Hanoi and Haiphong, the Haiphong cement plant, the Haiphong petroleum storage facilities, the railroad car and repair shops at Hanoi, the Hanoi railroad/highway bridge, and major military supply depots in both Hanoi and Haiphong.

The expansion of the bombing program, particularly the neutralization of North Vietnam's electric power industry is having widespread effects throughout the country. Almost all of the modern industrial sector of the economy has been paralyzed and orderly economic activity has been increasingly disrupted. Yet the effects of the bombing

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have not been sufficient to degrade significantly North Vietnam's ability to support the war in the South or to diminish the apparent determination of the regime to persist in its aggression.

The attacks against targets in the immediate areas of Hanoi and Haiphong have undoubtedly caused widespread disruptions to the lives of civilians in these cities. The disruptive and disquieting effects of air alerts are felt more frequently. Both Hanoi and Haiphong have been about 50 percent evacuated and the feeding and housing of evacuees imposes a heavy burden on the regime. Haiphong is almost completely dependent on diesel generators and visiting ships for its limited supply of power. The Hanoi powerplant is operating at only one-third of its normal capacity and reserve generating systems satisfy only limited power needs. Almost all [normal] industrial operations are estimated to have stopped and the supply of power for residences and street lighting is curtailed. A system of power rationing reportedly was inaugurated on 10 May.

Although the regime has characterized the attacks against facilities in Hanoi and Haiphong as a savage slaughter of defenseless women and children, our post-strike assessments show that damage to civilian structures and civilian casualties have probably been remarkably low.